



10 BIGGEST MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE IN HOLIDAY PARTY CONVERSATIONS

If you are like a lot of people, the mere thought of making "small talk" at holiday parties makes you break out into a cold sweat. But you can be more comfortable and confident mingling and chatting at professional and social get-togethers when you avoid these common pitfalls:

1. Not preparing a few topics that you're willing to talk about.
2. Displaying closed body language such as folded arms, not smiling, and no eye contact. They say: "I'm not interested in talking to you."
3. Remaining in one place and waiting for others to approach you.
4. Not introducing yourself or saying, "I'm bad at names."
5. Asking too many yes/no, short answer questions instead of open-ended questions that start with "How...?" or "What...?"
6. Not adding "free information" after answering a yes/no or short-answer question.
7. Talking too much or too little.
8. Discussing taboo topics such as sex, politics, religion, illnesses, personal problems, or gossip about others.
9. Arguing over minor details -- even if you are certain you're right.
10. Abruptly ending the conversation after a negative comment or a moment of silence.

Want to become a great conversationalist? Check out:

How to Start a Conversation and Make Friends